

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 IO-14 NIC-01

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 DRC-01 CU-04

HEW-08 INT-08 /225 W

----- 020372

O R 231500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7598

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, PFOR, UV

SUBJECT: LAMIZANA OUTLINES POLICY OF NEW REGIME

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 287

1. SUMMARY. INSPEECH TO NATION FEB 23, PRESIDENT
LAMIZANA ANNOUNCED POLICY OF NATIONAL RENEWAL GOVERN-
MENT SET UP AFTER HIS FEB 8 MILITARY TAKE-OVER. HE
ANNOUNCED INTENTION RAISE SALARIES, REVISE FIVE-YEAR
PLAN, CREATE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, CONTROL GRAIN
MARKETING, AND ENCOURAGE VOLTIZATION OF CAPITAL AND PER-
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SONNEL OF PRIVATE FIRMS. AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE WILL

BE REVISED, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS TO
BE IMPROVED. MAIN POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. DOMESTIC POLITICS. PRESIDENT CALLED FOR MOBILIZATION OF MASSES AND AGAIN ATTACKED OLD DEMOGOGIC POLITICS AND POLITICAL MERCHANDISING. SAID POLITICS HAS INSPIRED TOO MUCH LAISSEZ-ALLER IN GOVERNMENT BUREAUS AND AMONG PERSONNEL. ANNOUNCED INTENTION SET UP "CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR RENEWAL," TO COMMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND TO MOBILIZE PEOPLE. COUNCIL WILL HAVE EMPHASIS ON YOUNG IN AGE AND YOUNG IN SPIRIT. (COMMENT: THIS WILL REPLACE OLD ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) SEE OUAGA 313.) COUNCIL WILL BE REORGANIZED INTO DEPARTMENTS AND MILITARY REGIONS. BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INFORMATION MEDIA MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR UNITY AND DEVELOPMENT. (COMMENT: PRIVATE MEDIA HAD BETTER BE CAREFUL.) IN SPIRIT OF RENEWAL, ANY REFUSAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO COMMON TASK, EVEN MERE INDIFFERENCE, MUST BE INTERPRETED AS A BLOW AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE VOLTAN PEOPLE. (COMMENT: MANY ABLE CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN REFRAINING FROM ACCEPTING POSITIONS WITH NEW REGIME; THEY ARE NOW ON NOTICE.)

3. WAGES WILL BE READJUSTED UPWARD AS OF APRIL 1. ESPECIALLY FOR LOWEST CATEGORIES, BUT AMOUNT OF CHANGE WILL BE LIMITED BY REVENUES. (COMMENT: RISING PRICE OF IMPORTS MEANS THAT AD VALOREM DUTIES WILL YIELD MORE REVENUE.)

4. PRICES. THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH SPECULATION IN WHICH SHOULDN'T HAPPEN WHEN FAMINE EXISTS AND GOUV IS REQUESTING GRAIN FROM ABROAD. PEASANTS MUST NOT BE DEPRIVED OF FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR. GOUV WILL INSTALL CLOSER CONTROL OF PRICES. IF MERCHANTS DON'T COMPLY, GOUV

WILL ITSELF CARRY OUT MARKETING OF BASIC NECESSITIES (E.E. GRAIN). (COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE GRAIN SPECULATION, WITH MERCHANTS BUYING FOR AS LITTLE AS CFA 8 AND SELLING FOR CFA 25 TO 60. BUT GOUV WILL NOT FIND THIS EASY ONE TO MANAGE.)
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5. EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED AND ADAPTED.
(COMMENT: NOT EASY EITHER.)

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS SO SLOW AND SLIGHT AS TO BE IMPERCEPTIBLE. FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1972-76) WILL BE REVISED, GIVING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, INDUSTRIAL AND MINING DEVELOPMENT,

INFRASTRUCTURE, AND REGIONAL SPECIALIZATION. EXTENSION SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED TO MOBILIZE RURAL POPULATION TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION. POLICY OF STRICT BUDGETARY MANAGEMENT WILL CONTINUE; AND WILL INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FOREIGN FINANCING.

7. VOLTAIZATION. INDUSTRIAL CAPITAL IS OFTEN IN FOREIGN HANDS, PROFITS ARE NOT USED FOR DEVELOPMENT, AND EXISTING VOLTIZATION OF MANAGEMENT INVOLVES ONLY HANDFUL OF PEOPLE. WE WILL REVISE INVESTMENT CODE TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF STATE AND PEOPLE, AND TO ENCOURAGE VOLTAIZATION OF CAPITAL AND STAFF, AND PROFIT-SHARING FOR LABOR. (COMMENT: IN FACT THERE IS REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMERCIAL FIRMS, WHICH USUALLY HAVE LOW CAPITALIZATION AND MAXIMUM EXPORT OF PROFITS, AND INDUSTRIAL/MINING/AGRUBUSINESSES. GOUV NEEDS INSTEAD DO UTMOST TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT IN LATTER FIELDS IN INTERESTS MATERIEL PRODUCTION.)

8. FOREIGN POLICY. GOUV WILL HAVE REALISTIC FOREIGN POLICY, PURSUING MUTUAL INTEREST AND PROTECTING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTH. "UPPER VOLTA FOR THE VOLTANS" IS REALITY WHICH MUST BE RESPECTED; GOUV WILL PERMIT NO INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. (COMMENT: JINGOISTIC WORDS ABOUT PROHIBITING ANY INTERFERENCE IN VOLTAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT THEME IN RENEWAL REGIME STATEMENTS.) EXISTING AGREEMENTS (COMMENT: WITH FRANCE) WILL BE REVISED, RESPECTING MUTUAL INTERESTS OF EACH PARTY, SOONEST. IN AID POLICY, UPPER VOLTA NEDS TO BETTER AFFIRM ITS PERSONALITY AND ITS SOVEREIGNTY. PRESENT TECHNICAL ASSIS- TANCE, THOUGH USEFUL, DOES NOT GIVE MAXIMUM BENEFIT. THE BEST TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD SEEK TO MAKE IT- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SELF NO LONGER NEEDED. (COMMENT: A CRITISM OF SELF- PERPETUATING NATURE OF FRENCH TA.)

9. REGIONAL COOPERATION. CEA0 IS ESPECIALLY IMPOR- TANT, AND GOUV HOPES SEE IT ENLARGED TO INCLUDE ALL WEST AFRICA, BOTH ANGLOPHONE AND FRANCOPHONE.

10. GENERAL COMMENT: SPEECH INDICATES INTENTION ATTEMPT MOVE IN DIRECTION "AUTHENTICITY" (FOLLOWING MOBUTU AND EYADEMA) AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL. FRENCH CAN NO LONGER COUNT ON UPPER VOLTA BEING ENTIRELY PROBLEM- FREE COUNTRY FOR THEM. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED, THERE ARE PRACTICAL CONSTRAINTS ON WHAT GOUV CAN DO, AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT TARGETS FOR AFRICANIZATION ARE RATHER SMALL. BULLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FIVE YEAR PLAN, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OUAGAD00346
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740213/aaaaamep.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: OUAGADOUGOU 287
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAMIZANA OUTLINES POLICY OF NEW REGIME
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, PFOR, UV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005